

City of Camanche
March 31, 2026

The City Council of the City of Camanche, Iowa met in special session on March 31, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Camanche City Hall. Present on roll call: Mayor Austin Pruett presiding, and Councilmembers Edens, Goldbeck, Klahn and Maxwell. Absent: Councilmember Farrell. Also present were City Administrator Andrew Kida, City Attorneys Frey and Roberts, Department Heads Schmitz, Sowle and Schneider.

City Administrator Kida noted the Agenda did not include an item for Public Comments so the Agenda should be approved with an amendment to include this item.

Moved by Councilman Edens, second by Councilman Klahn to approve the Agenda, as amended to add an item for Public Comments. On roll call – all Ayes.

Mayor Pruett called for Public Comments, limited to 3 minutes. Dave Willis 1433 3rd Street. He was hopeful there would be informational meetings about the overpass complete with coffee and donuts. He proposes that the public, Council and Administration get together and discuss what it is we want to task Veenstra & Kimm with. Maybe that was done by the City without public input, he doesn't know. His continuous thought on an overpass has been for emergencies only. He said Councilman Klahn brought up the idea of using our current utility emergency vehicle to get access to emergency equipment on the south side of the tracks to attend emergency hands-on while the stalled or derailed train is broke apart. He never envisioned a full 2 lane wide overpass. He thinks the full-scale overpass was the sole idea pushed knowing that Camanche would never be able to fund it and this study was only being done to quiet the squeaky south side wheels. He gave his idea for a smaller overpass that could also be used for recreation. He thanked Councilmen Edens and Klahn for maintaining an open mind for this process. He said to remember that we get what we surrender to.

Under Unfinished Business was a Resolution Engaging Veenstra & Kimm for Feasibility Study for an overpass. This Resolution was previously approved by Council and vetoed by Mayor Pruett. Councilman Klahn asked for the Resolution to be reconsidered at this special meeting during the March 17, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Councilman Klahn, second by Councilman Edens to Adopt a Resolution Engaging Veenstra & Kimm for Feasibility Study for an overpass. A lengthy discussion of the topic followed. Councilman Klahn asked Chief Schmitz for an update on the cameras. Councilman Maxwell said we need a quote. Schmitz said the cameras will help in response time whether we have an overpass or not. The recent blockage was discussed. The ARTCO crossing was available to emergency services; they have always been a good neighbor. Councilman Edens talked about if this had been a school early out day and children possibly crawling under the stopped train. It was noted that the blockage was reported to the school district officials. Edens said when we talk about emergencies, it is not always about the police, what if there is an emergency that I have to get to the other side of the tracks. It may not be that a house is on fire, but it may be an emergency to them; there's a lot of reasons. He still thinks we need to pursue this, at least the pedestrian overpass. Mayor Pruett feels it should be for emergency services and first responders only. We wouldn't want to open the overpass up for everyone. Councilman Klahn said we owe it to everyone to have the same access to emergency services. Mayor Pruett asked Fire Chief Sowle about when the Fire Station was on 3rd Street, on the other side of the tracks. Chief said the answers to all the what if questions are tough.

Councilman Goldbeck asked Chief Sowle how many calls were on the south side of the tracks and he said there were 12 from January 1st through March 31st. Mayor Pruett said his main concern is the eminent domain; if we took 30 homes and displace that many people, we don't have that many homes available for the people we displace. We will lose residents who are taxpayers. Councilman Edens argued that there are pedestrian overpasses in Iowa City that are the screw type and don't have the large footprint. That Councilman Maxwell said he struggles with seeing this coming to fruition and does not have the appetite to spend \$61,000.00 of taxpayer money on the study. Councilman Klahn also mentioned our overpass ordinance. City Attorney Roberts informed everyone that we did look into this briefly when the CPKC merger first happened and our conclusion was that they would fight us every step of the way, claiming that the state statute was unconstitutional and he is not aware of any city that has successfully used the state statute. The prior Council looked at this and decided to not pursue it. If this Council decides to do this, the first step is to get engineering done. However, the statute does not cover a pedestrian overpass. Kida added that the City is responsible for the expenses related to eminent domain. Roberts said, specifically, it is Iowa Code Section 364.8.

On roll call, Ayes – Councilmen Goldbeck, Klahn, Edens. Nay – Councilman Maxwell. The Mayoral Veto is not overturned and the Resolution is not adopted.

Moved by Councilman Edens, second by Councilman Klahn to Accept Resignation from Casey Green from the Park and Recreation Commission. On roll call – all Ayes.

Moved by Councilman Edens, second by Councilman Goldbeck to Adopt a Resolution Temporarily Delegating Certain Authority Under Ordinance 2-12 From the Camanche Park and Recreation Commission to the City Administrator and the City Council. On roll call – all Ayes.

Mayor Pruett adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Austin Pruett
Mayor

Toni L. Schneider
City Clerk/Treasurer